



## CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD

70 Tolland Street, Bldg. #6 • East Hartford, CT • 06108 • Phone: 860.291.1700 • Fax: 860.291.1701

February 8, 2009

### H.B. No. 7304 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS AND THE DISCARDING OF FISHING LINE.

Senator Finch, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, The Connecticut Southern Railroad would like to provide testimony opposing H.B No. 7304, specifically the provisions banning cage layer production and requiring the State of CT to purchase only cage free eggs.

We are the primary supplier of rail service for a feed mill in Manchester, Connecticut that provides the feedstuffs to Connecticut's farms and farm families. These farms range from small backyard operations that buy bags of feed from the local farm store to larger farms who manufacture and purchase feed in bulk. As one of our significant customers, the targeted egg producing operations in Southeastern CT represent almost 10% of the business that we do in that area. (In 2008, we delivered 485 cars; about 47,000 tons of feed ingredients, to this feed mill.) This legislation would put that operation out of business forcing them to move their operations into other areas of the country. In an era when there is so much concern over outsourcing of jobs and the continued pressure on CT's economy in competing for jobs, as well as the dwindling open spaces in CT, it would seem shortsighted to deliberately drive an operation such as this out of state. The long term impact on CT's farms and businesses would be widespread. The result of the loss of such volume and the potential added costs to feed mills and other businesses utilizing rail service could cause the cost of rail service in CT to increase or be reduced for the remaining customers. Those costs would ultimately be passed on to farmers, straining even further an already strained agricultural economy, as well as all of industry served by rail in CT. In addition, we are constantly competing with trucks as a primary hauler of materials into the state. The potential shift of tonnage from rail to truck would put a burden on CT's transportation infrastructure. The far reaching impact of this type of legislation cannot be understated.

I urge you to recognize the value of the operations affected by this bill and support CT's agricultural economy by voting no to H.B No. 7304



A RailAmerica Company

# CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD

---

70 Tolland Street, Bldg. #6 • East Hartford, CT • 06108 • Phone: 860.291.1700 • Fax: 860.291.1701

P.2

Sincerely yours,

Charles D. Hunter, Director of State Relations- East



A RailAmerica Company